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# BREEZE HILL NEWS

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THE NEW WEIGELA, BRISTOL RUBY



# What Is Breeze Hill News?

*P* RIMARILY issued to promote the business of the MOUNT PLEASANT PRESS, this little periodical, which isn't sold, has come to be a source of impartial information as to good things nurserymen and seedsmen may look at for the promotion of sound trade.

Since our first issue in June, 1927, there have been thirty-seven Breeze Hill News produced, including 269 pictures, each one honest, each one original, each one worth while. Breeze Hill Gardens are unique in that they include continual thoughtful and capable trials of things the horticultural trades need to know about. In general what we print is usually well ahead of the procession. When we show a thing, we offer opportunity for profitable trade to those who care to take it.

This occasional periodical, with no guaranteed regularity of issue, is sent to those whom we think are interested, and some of them are good enough to respond by comment or inquiry or even by accepting the invitation to use the facilities of the MOUNT PLEASANT PRESS for increasing proper nursery and seed trade in America.

To you who read what is here printed, inquiry is frankly made:

**Do you think it worth while** to sustain this effort? Isn't it also worth while to use the facilities represented by the illustrations, unequaled in quality and number, as possessed by the MOUNT PLEASANT PRESS in color as well as in black and white, to promote the horticultural business by which you live?

Here are facilities for horticultural advertising, freely imitated but not equaled anywhere else in America. From the plant or seed in the garden to the finished sale by the nurseryman or seedsmen there is one thought, that of real service. It usually costs more to serve well than to merely go through the imitative motions that look like service. We are not ashamed of this extra cost, because under it this great enterprise has built up and many millions of dollars' worth of horticultural products are annually sold.

If you who read these words of truth believe them, your acknowledgment of that belief will be greatly valued. Let us have a word!

*J. Horace McFarland*

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## THE NEW WEIGELA, BRISTOL RUBY

ABOUT a dozen years ago Alex Cumming of the Bristol Nurseries crossed the Weigelas, *W. rosea* and *Eva Rathke*, and from the resultant seedlings selected one which promised to carry on with the rich darkness of bloom of *Eva Rathke* on a much better plant, and, in addition, it bloomed a second time, something very few Weigelas do. Plants were propagated and one of them sent to Breeze Hill in 1937.

This plant is now a 6-foot shrub, as much through at the base, and well clothed with attractive foliage, much smaller than most hybrid Weigelas. It comes into bloom here about June 1, nearly two weeks later than the early hybrids.

Slender buds of deep garnet open to trumpet-like flowers of the same rich color, changing in a few days to soft silvery rose. This coloring combines nicely with the large white anthers and stigmas topping pinkish filaments and style. A peculiar scent adds to its desirability in the small garden. Bloom is carried in generous clusters of a dozen or more. Flowers are much larger than those of the somewhat similarly colored *Eva Rathke*.

Important to Breeze Hill is the fact that the plants produce a cheering crop of autumn bloom, at its best during late September and early October.

Our color description will probably not agree with the originator's description, as Mr. Cumming talks of ruby-carmine buds and soft carmine-crimson flowers. However, hardly any two plantsmen see flower colors alike. We ran through a pile of catalogues for a description of *W.*, *Eva Rathke* (one of the parents of *Bristol Ruby*). In New Jersey it was ruby; in Pennsylvania, crimson; in Maryland, carmine; and in Massachusetts, brownish red. So, garnet or carmine-crimson, it's a lovely flower on a splendid plant—and it repeats!

A patent is pending. *Bristol Ruby* will be available to the public next spring.

## NARCISSUS NOTES

SOME four years ago, in the Breeze Hill News for June, 1937, we reported on the performance of a sizable collection of Narcissus. This included the best of the popular varieties and a number of newer things that were just finding a place in catalogues.

Last fall we made another planting, including not only fresh bulbs of good older sorts with an equal number of recent high-priced varieties. The result was most pleasing; Breeze Hill had an extra display of lovely Narcissus this spring, and while we realize there are many similar varieties in most classes, Breeze Hill does not assume to decide which should be discarded and which retained.

These new varieties came to us mostly from the Oregon Bulb Farms of Sandy, Oregon, and from Stumpp & Walter Co., of New York City, the latter reaching us later than was desirable, and in consequence producing smaller blooms.

### THE YELLOW TRUMPET NARCISSI

CONSIDERING the notes on the 1940 planting, it seems that 23 Yellow Trumpet varieties appear—and 23 closely akin varieties is too many for the average gardener to consider.

We would like to pronounce one of the novelties better than any of the old varieties but, at least in our opinion, the outstanding large Trumpet this year was Giant Killer (1927), a great flower with a  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch overlapping perianth made up of very broad petals of translucent white, washed with yellow. The broadly flanged, rich deep yellow trumpet, a full  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, was delightfully fragrant. The flowers were held slightly elevated on 17-inch stems. If a complaint were in order it would be that the perianth color was too light for a real yellow Trumpet Narcissus.

Close behind Giant Killer for top honors was Statendam (1929). This grand flower was truly yellow all through, a real self if there ever was one. Not as broadly flanged as



NARCISSUS  
ABELARD. (See page 11.)

Giant Killer, the flaring trumpet measured  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long by as much across the mouth, and the  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch perianth was composed of broad overlapping petals. Checked on the sixth day the lovely flowers were then looking up at the sky, the height was 21 inches, and with a fragrance delightfully distinct. Statendam is still above "everybody's" price class, but is worth all it costs.

To follow Statendam we placed Alaska (1928; see page 20), which was only 17 inches tall, but its deeply colored, widely flaring trumpet,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long by 2 inches across the mouth, exhaled rich fragrance while facing the sky, and its broad 4-inch perianth was well made. Study was required to choose between Alaska and Ben Hur (1927). The latter attained the same height, but the flowers were only partly tipped up

from a right angle. The sulphur perianth measured  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches across the twisted petals, while a 2-inch, flaring, nicely flanged and deeply frilled trumpet of soft deep yellow completed the pleasing picture.

Hector Treub (1923) and Hendrik Ibsen (1927), planted side by side, appeared too much alike for one to need both, but when carefully checked, Hendrik Ibsen was judged superior. Ibsen grew 20 inches tall, while Treub measured only 18 inches. Ibsen's perianth was  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch broader and its trumpet  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch longer. They were both deep yellow and both pleasingly fragrant. A telling point in Hendrik Ibsen's favor was that the flowers stood up better under hot sun.

A number of splendid and reasonably priced varieties may now be considered alphabetically. In general it may be assumed that the newer sorts are really improvements.

Aerolite (1923) did not appear as good as it was a few years ago, yet is really nice. It stood 17 inches tall with a broad light yellow perianth and flaring, deep yellow trumpet. Opening at the same time, Alasnam (1923) made a pleasing appearance with a twisted perianth of greenish yellow and a broadly flaring trumpet of deep yellow. It stood 18 inches tall and faced the sun.

Cleopatra (1903) is still good when weather is cool, but wilted in our hot sun. It has a good  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch perianth and a 2-inch slender trumpet, the entire flower being soft pale yellow. It stood 17 inches tall.

Although still rather high priced, Diotima (1927) needs to be included. It grew 19 inches tall and produced giant flowers with broadly flanged, nicely frilled trumpets 2 inches across the mouth, with a peculiar  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch perianth which overlapped very little. The perianth was deep sulphur and the trumpet rich yellow; fragrance exceptionally good.

Large in size but ordinary in appearance and only 16 inches tall, Duchanel (1923) had an informal, twisted perianth and a large 2-inch tapering trumpet. The color was a sort of sulphur-yellow.



Blooming a few days ahead of most of these, the old King Alfred (1899) still makes a fine display, but is excelled in bloom-size and quality by later varieties such as the lovely Matomax (1923), one of its seedlings. The latter stood 18 inches tall with a broad perianth of pale yellow and a 2-inch straight trumpet of rich, soft yellow. Like its parent, the flowers are elevated very little and it is weak on fragrance.

Another old Daffodil which is holding its own is Olympia (1900). An informal perianth and flaring trumpet with nicely frilled edges present an eye-filling picture. Another fine King Alfred seedling is Warwick (1923), with a 4-inch overlapping perianth of clear yellow and a tapering trumpet of a softer richer yellow. The wide mouth was broadly flanged and heavily frilled, and the flowers tried hard to look at the sun.

Among the rarer and high-priced varieties the following looked promising and worthy of further trial.

Advance Guard (1923) had a medium-sized, slender trumpet shading from the sulphur-yellow perianth to very deep yellow on the broad flange. Another real streamliner was Apotheosis (1927), with a long deep yellow trumpet and lighter perianth. It was interesting but not as alluring as the lovely Decency (1930), with a 4½-inch broadly overlapping perianth having three unusually broad petals and a slender 2-inch trumpet. The ensemble color is a rich yellow and it had excellent fragrance. Also with delightful fragrance was Golden Harvest (1927), with a broad perianth and slender trumpet of clear yellow. Although 25 years old, Golden Sunrise (1916) came to us as a novelty and proved worth while. The deep yellow 1¾-inch trumpet and 3½-inch perianth looked good on their short stems (it was only 12 inches tall).

One of the best of these was Insurpassable, a giant flower with a 4-inch overlapping perianth of clean yellow and a 2-inch deep yellow trumpet as much across its flanged mouth. It looked unashamedly at the sun while most of the newer

ones held their flowers at right angles. Rather informal in appearance was Rembrandt (1930). A 4-inch, perfectly flat perianth of clear yellow surrounded a tapering 2-inch trumpet of deep yellow, the edges deeply cut. Delightful fragrance blessed this low-growing Daffodil, while Youth (1931) was the same general color as Decency but a smaller flower, and, being but 12 inches high, was marked "unimportant so far."

## THE BICOLOR TRUMPET NARCISSI

THERE were only two of the rarer varieties under this heading.

Music Hall (1923) produced medium-sized flowers having a pale lemon perianth and deep yellow trumpet which was broadly flanged. It had strong fragrance, but the bloom was not impressive. Rockery Beauty (1928) proved to be just what the name implies. It was only 6 inches tall, and the lovely flowers were held upright so one could look right down

NARCISSUS, ADA FINCH. (See page 11.)







MINIATURE NARCISSUS, FEBRUARY GOLD

(See page 17.)

*It should be noted that any of these new and accurate pictures  
are available for use at the Mount Pleasant Press,  
as are thousands of others equally desirable.*

into them. The star-shaped, pale sulphur perianth was  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches across with 1-inch canary-yellow trumpets which flared nicely, and whose edges were pleasingly frilled. Every garden needs this sort whether there is a rockery or not.

Lovenest (1928) is a lovely flower with an informal 4-inch perianth of translucent white, all petals being of equal size. The tapering trumpet,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and as much across the frilled mouth, is soft apricot with pinkish tints, and it exhales a delightful fragrance. The flower does not hold up its head, but points at the horizon and grows 17 inches tall.

Harvard (1927) proved to have stamina, standing up splendidly during a terrifically hot period. A 4-inch yellowish white perianth surrounded a medium-sized, flaring trumpet of deep yellow. It was 18 inches high, just a trifle taller than Jefta (1927) which has a large perianth of watery white and a short pale yellow trumpet with a broad frilled flange. Flowers are held partly upright and carry a distinct fragrance. Silvanite is a lovely flower but does not hold up its head. A straight pale lemon trumpet and a broad water-white perianth go well together. It was 18 inches tall and had a distinct, sharp fragrance.

Two older varieties, Spring Glory (1914) and Victoria (1897) are yet deserving of a place. The former has a yellowish white perianth and slender deep yellow trumpet. It was 17 inches tall, while Victoria only grew 14 inches and had a smaller creamy white perianth and a rich yellow trumpet which looked upward.

## THE WHITE TRUMPET NARCISSI

THERE are six of these lovely Daffodils to consider. Three of them—Jungfrau, La Vestale and President Carnot—are in the lower-price range, while Ada Finch (see page 8) can still be considered expensive, and Mrs. John Bodger is more in the luxury class.



Mrs. John Bodger (1927) leads in a beautiful flower, held partly erect. The  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch overlapping perianth is pure white, while a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch straight trumpet of pale creamy white has a delightful, distinct fragrance. It was the sweetest of the White Trumpet group. The plant grew less than a foot tall here.

Ada Finch (1927) should be second (page 8). The lovely flower begins with a soft yellow trumpet which changes to cream, and is surrounded by a creamy white perianth which overlaps but has twisted petals. Ada was 21 inches tall.

President Carnot (1923), in third place, also opens soft yellow, changing to a light creamy white. The flowers are of medium size and are held nearly upright on 18-inch stems. The odor is too strong for comfortable cut-flower use.

Jungfrau (1927) is a dainty flower with an informal 4-inch perianth and 2-inch slender trumpet; like others it opens sulphur and ages white. It grew 18 inches tall with flowers held horizontally. La Vestale (1927) opens soft yellow and ages white. The dainty trumpet, only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, relates to a broadly overlapping perianth. The fragrance is rather strong. It grew 18 inches tall, and the flowers were held upright.

Roxane (1927) was only a late-planted bulb—not a fair test—but it did look wonderfully promising. The great perianth was  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches across and surrounded a flaring trumpet which opened soft creamy yellow, then turning white. We need more of this one.

## NARCISSUS INCOMPARABILIS

THE Yellow Incomparabilis forms are the popular Narcissus today, and the list of these planted last fall is rather too long to go into details about, but we point out the varieties impressing us most at Breeze Hill.

Of those obtainable at moderate prices, Abelard (1927) (see page 5), with pale petals and orange-edged cup, was held



NARCISSUS  
DAISY SCHAFFER. (See page 15.)

well on unusually long stems, as was Walter Hampden (1930), with an especially good trumpet of rich yellow.

Carlton (1927) and Lucinius (1928) were self-colored flowers, the golden yellow of Lucinius being somewhat darker than the shade of yellow in Carlton. Both were good.

With cups having darker colored edges, we liked Red Cross (1928), Red Shadow (1929), and Yellow Poppy (1914), the latter making the best growth and Red Shadow showing the brightest color, for there was a bit of red in the orange edge.

Croesus (1912) has a splendid broad perianth and a rich orange cup, a combination giving it high rank, while the newer Donatello (1927) seemed to be just a nice variety. Mi Careme (1927) was dismissed as "distinct," while the note for Gallipoli reads "A splendid cup but a poor floppy perianth."

We had one bulb each of several newer or rare varieties which still cost dollars each, but unfortunately were planted so late that they were not at their best this spring. Damson (1935), Havelock (1907), Irene Bordoni (1936), Killigrew (1907), Merkara (1928), and Scarlet Lancer (1928) were promising enough to make us wish to see them all under better conditions.

## THE BICOLOR INCOMPARABILIS FORMS

THIS group brings the section more life, with bright edges to the cups or trumpets. Among the well-known varieties we again admired the clean white perianth and gorgeous flaring orange cup of Dick Wellband (1929), with its wide edge of coppery orange. Francisca Drake (1926) showed a lovely cup of yellow, edged deep orange, but the perianth seemed to lack something, while John Evelyn (1920) was checked as lovely in every way. Its daintily edged cup of pale yellow was surrounded by perfect white petals, and a good stem held the flowers upright. Milford Haven (1927) improved each day it was open. A flaring cup of yellow, with a broad edge of orange, nestled in an informal perianth of milk-white and looked at the sun by the third day.

As with the Yellow Incomparabilis sorts the higher priced varieties of the bicolors were planted too late to do their best. We will have to wait another year.

## THE BARRI NARCISSI

WHILE very much like the Incomparabilis varieties, the Barri forms have smaller cups, but maintain the same delightful form and colors. Many of the 1940 planting were varieties new to Breeze Hill.

Of the yellow varieties, Alcida, Anna Croft, and Diana Kasner appeared to be the best among the six sorts in this planting. It is pleasing to note that these are all priced so that every garden can have them.

The frilly yellow cup of Alcida was edged with orange, something like the fragrant flowers of Anna Croft, although the latter was of a deeper color. Diana Kasner's tapering cup of rich yellow, edged with orange, went nicely with an informally twisted perianth. These were all tall growers, providing good stems for cutting.

Carleen's cup was a blend of deep yellow and orange, while Nanny Nunn showed pale yellow and a narrow line of orange. Varna flaunted a yellow and orange cup having little crimping. The latter seemed the least interesting of the group to this reporter, who was also disappointed in the lovely Mrs. Barclay because, while the splendid perianth and yellow and orange cup presented a good picture, the height ranged only from 10 to 20 inches tall, making a messy-looking bed.

Of the Bicolor Barri group there were several, of which Fleur, Mrs. M. H. Brewster, and Niobe attracted the most attention, though Kilter, Nobility, Red Chief, and Robin Hood ran them close.

Fleur had an informally twisted, snow-white perianth and an almost flat yellow cup, heavily frilled and edged with orange, and is truly pretty. Mrs. M. H. Brewster likewise sported an almost flat cup of light yellow, edged with a broad line of reddish orange, while Niobe was one of the latest to bloom and had almost round, clean white petals surrounding a greenish yellow, flat cup with a broad edge of reddish orange.

Kilter showed a snow-white perianth and a perfectly flat cup of yellow, edged reddish orange. Nobility, however, had a lovely flat cup of clear light yellow and a broadly overlapping perianth of pure white.

Red Chief's cup stood somewhat away from the petals and toned from yellow to reddish orange, while Robin Hood sported a short trumpet of soft light orange without a flashy edge, being distinctly different.

The remaining varieties were among those planted late, on which judgment is reserved.



## NARCISSUS LEEDSI

NEVER spectacular but always beautiful, the Leeds family deserve a choice location in the spring garden.

Except for the exquisite Mrs. R. O. Backhouse, which does really not seem extravagant at a dollar a bulb, the members of this group are quite reasonably priced. The graceful, slender trumpets of Mrs. Backhouse start like apricot in color, but in two or three days change to a real pink when they are at their best. The blooms have a charm quite independent of the distinct color.

The most of the Leeds group open their trumpets in some shade of light yellow or cream and slowly change to white, their loveliest stage. Daisy Schaffer (page 12) opened a lightly frilled tapering trumpet, shading from sulphur to canary, but turning white two days later, while Duchess of Westminster took longer to bleach out in spite of facing the sun. Eve was another rapid-change variety, turning from soft sulphur to cream, and then to an odd kind of white, almost as if a little green dye had been mixed with the milk!

One doesn't have to try to fall in love with Gertie Millar with its four-inch snow-white perianth and beautifully flared trumpet, which opens soft yellow and reaches soft cream three days later. The flowers are held horizontally like those of Louis Capet, which becomes pale creamy white after beginning soft sulphur.

Another lovely variety is Mrs. Nette O. Melveny with outer petals so broad that they almost touch. The trumpet is a deeper yellow at first than most of the group. Its one fault is a scent too strong to be pleasant—much like that of Silver Star, which is better appreciated at a distance. The latter's broad petals are silvery white, matching the mature tapering trumpet—a chaste flower indeed!

It is apparent to any thoughtful observer that these newer daffodils are truly better, scoring real advance in form, habit or color, or all of them. (This remark refers to all of the varieties considered, not only to the Leeds group.)



PRIMROSE PHOENIX

### THE DOUBLE NARCISSI

**D**DOUBLE Narcissi have their admirers, but at Breeze Hill they do not attract much attention. We had two of these, Mary Copeland (1914) and Snowsprite (1913). Snowsprite seemed to be the better of the two, having snow-white petals with a pale lemon cup tangled in the center, while a medley of watery white, deep sulphur and reddish orange made up the flower of Mary Copeland. It was as bizarre as Snowsprite was modest.

## THE OLD POETICUS

**D**ULCIMER (1913) and Ornatus, one of the originals, were added to our collection of Poeticus this year, and they are both worth having. Dulcimer was 15 inches tall with a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch overlapping white perianth and a flat eye of yellow, edged red. The flowers of Dulcimer had little fragrance while Ornatus exhaled a spicy scent. The flowers were quite similar in makeup and marking except that Ornatus had the longer petals.

## THE MINIATURE DAFFODILS

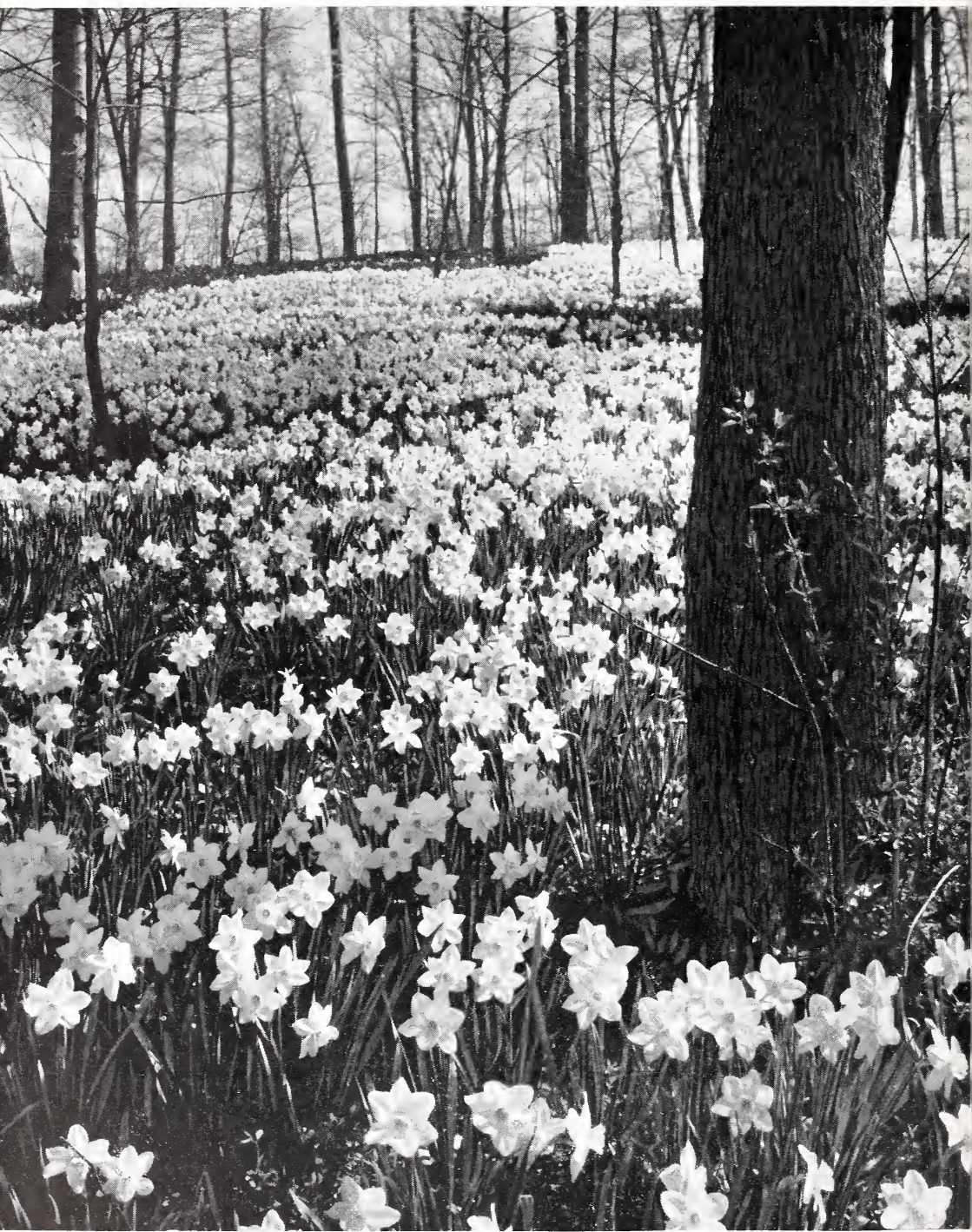
**G**ROUPED here are the Cyclamineus and Triandrus, with the splendid February Gold (see page 9) representing the former group. February Gold (1923) may bloom in February somewhere, but it is usually mid-April before Breeze Hill sees a bloom. The perianth is large for the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch trumpet as it measures over 3 inches across. The lovely golden yellow trumpet is straight instead of flaring at the mouth.

We had four of the splendid Triandrus family: Agnes Harvey (1902), Moonshine (1927), Pearly Queen (1927), and Thalia (1916). Most of these are duplications of earlier tests, but one never has too many of this fine family.

Agnes Harvey, as dainty as it can be, shows a  $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch overlapping perianth of snowy white against which is nestled a tiny white cup only  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep and  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch across. Moonshine follows right after with larger flowers. Its 3-inch starry perianth and 1-inch tapering trumpet, both white, make this foot-high flower quite irresistible.

Pearly Queen has a perianth that does not overlap—the petals merely touch—they are translucent white with quite long ( $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches) sulphur trumpets. Most of the 12-inch stems carry one flower, but a few have two. Also fairly large is Thalia, with a 3-inch twisted perianth which also does not overlap and a tapering trumpet of the same white as the petals. It is an exquisite flower, 16 inches tall.





NARCISSUS NATURALIZED—PERMANENT PLANTING



## THE TAZETTA NARCISSI

FRANS HALS (1914), Glorious (1923), and Medusa (1907) made up our planting of this group.

Frans Hals bloomed in clusters of half a dozen with white petals and a shallow orange cup. It grew to 14 inches, while Glorious made 18 inches and carried smaller clusters of flowers facing the sky. Glorious showed blooms made up of a 2¼-inch white perianth and a shallow cup of deep yellow edged with orange. Medusa reached 20 inches and its pure white perianth was beautiful but the yellow and red cup was not so good. However, it is a splendid cutting variety.

## THE JONQUILS

THERE were only five of these in the 1940 planting. It was interesting to find that the old favorite Golden Sceptre (1914) was just as uniform as ever, with more flowers than any of the newer varieties, yet we had to admit the superiority of the individual flowers of Chrysolite (1927) and Numa Pompilius (1927). Golden Sceptre's height was 18 inches while Numa Pompilius was 20 and Chrysolite 22. Numa Pompilius had the longest, and darkest trumpet of the group, with Chrysolite a close second.

Lady Hillingdon (1927) was only 12 inches tall, but very late planting may account for part of its dwarfness. It showed a translucent white perianth surrounding a heavily crimped and frilled trumpet of soft yellow, edged pale orange.

White Wedgwood (1927) bore tapering, slender trumpets of canary-yellow and was checked as lovely, in spite of a perianth which was not a good white.

The Jonquils are all delightfully fragrant.

*It should be noted that all these descriptions are made directly from the blooms, and not from catalogues. Breeze Hill News prides itself on the honesty and accuracy of its recorded observations.*



NARCISSUS, ALASKA  
(See page 5)